



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Armenia: Announcement of U.S. Donation**

As delivered by Acting Political Counselor David Kostelancik  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
February 17, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On February 9, the United States Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, informed the head of the OSCE office in Yerevan, Ambassador Pryakhin, that the U.S. government had decided to contribute to funding the OSCE project to eliminate rocket fuel component stocks in Armenia.

Our contribution toward implementing this project will total approximately 1.7 million U.S. dollars.

The OSCE estimates that 872 tons of rocket fuel components remain in Armenia and are stored in unstable conditions. These types of stocks, found in other states of the former Soviet Union, as well as Armenia, are often kept in inadequate containers that present considerable environmental risk, in addition to the inherent security risk posed by the rocket fuel components.

Although the United States is the primary source of funds for this project, and will provide nearly 75 percent of the budget, other states have also made important contributions, including to the crucial initial phases.

While this project now has funds available for completion, we understand that the OSCE Office in Yerevan would welcome the participation of additional OSCE participating States.

The method of neutralizing the rocket fuel stocks chosen by the OSCE will result in the added positive by-product of a liquid fertilizer for use by Armenia's farmers.

The United States is pleased to support the work of the OSCE Office in Yerevan. The U.S. Government supports several OSCE projects there, and we recently provided an extra-budgetary contribution to fund a significant portion of its Police Assistance Program.

In conjunction with this effort, the U.S. has made a bilateral contribution of 530 thousand dollars to fund the renovation of the Police Induction Training Center in Yerevan, helping to build the capacity of Armenia's police force to fulfill its role in upholding the rule of law in Armenia.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.